

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In re Application of: Vick

Serial No. Unassigned

Filing Date: Herewith

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REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 35-38 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-34, and 39-40 have been cancelled; having been pursued as either originally elected claims of the parent application or as claims in a concurrently filed divisional application. The Specification is amended to cross-reference the parent patent application which is included in the claim for 35 U.S.C. 120 priority. Examination of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments.

The present application is a divisional of parent U.S. Application Serial No. 09/991,106, entitled "Composite Restraint System for Securing Freight," filed November 16, 2001. A restriction requirement was issued in the parent application. The cancelled claims of the present application were directed to originally restricted Group I claims (1-10), Group II claims (20-29), or Group IV claims (11-19, 30-34 and 39-40) of the parent application, which were either previously elected and prosecuted in the parent application, or are being concurrently prosecuted in a related divisional application. Claims 11-19, and 30-34 of the parent application have been allowed by the Examiner, but the issue fee has not yet been paid.

The present application is directed to originally restricted Group III claims (35-38) of the parent application, drawn to a tightening device. The Examiner has indicated that the Group classification for these claims is class 24, subclass 68cd.

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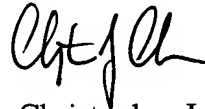
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Attorney for the Assignee respectfully requests examination of Claims 35-38 of this application. If there are any issues which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited call the undersigned attorney at 404-815-6048.

Respectfully submitted,



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DATE: 29 January 2004

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